

PEPCO FIGHT TO KEEP GRIP ON DIVIDENDS WAXES WARM

By BILL PRICE.

One of the greatest fights monopolistic capital in Washington has ever put up to keep a grip on fat dividends is proceeding this week in the Supreme Court of the District before Justice Gould.

This case, before it is finished, will challenge the attention of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the public service commissions of the country, and, above all, the people of the District, whose interests are most vitally affected. Almost every fundamental question in public utility laws is involved.

It is the appeal of the Potomac Electric Light Company against the valuation of its property fixed by the Utilities Commission of Washington. When this appeal is finally disposed of the same company will fight in the courts against the lowering of its rates to electric light consumers, as ordered by the Utilities Commission in July last.

Commission's Findings. After many months of painstaking and searching investigation at public hearings, the commission last May valued the property of the electric light company at \$11,000,000, in round figures. The company maintains a valuation of \$23,000,000, and upon that figure wishes to pay the largest dividends the courts will permit. In its last dividend year it paid to stock-

Philadelphia Orchestra, Due In D. C. Tomorrow, Is Snowbound In Michigan

"Snowbound—somewhere in Michigan," was the message received here today by T. Arthur Smith from the management of the Philadelphia Orchestra, which was scheduled to appear at the National Theater tomorrow. Announcement is made by Mr. Smith that the orchestra will probably be able to fill the engagement at the National on March 26.

holders, the majority of stock being owned by the Washington Railway and Electric Company, the nice little sum of 11 per cent.

James J. Darlington, Charles A. Douglas, and John S. Barbour, three of the ablest lawyers of the District bar, represent the company, while the Utilities Commission and the public are represented by Conrad Syme, corporation counsel, whose official salary for one year is about what one of his legal opponents makes in a month. Yet this keen, aggressive spokesman for public interests is holding his own surprisingly, agreeably well.

What the Company Claims. The company insists that its property has increased millions of dollars in value in two years because labor and materials have advanced in cost by reason of the war. It claims that it is entitled to every dollar it would theoretically cost to reproduce between 1916 and 1921, including hundreds of thousands of dollars for promoters.

The little list of claims includes about \$1,000,000 for the cost of securing the business it now does—solicitors, advertisements, propaganda, etc.; about \$2,500,000 for the privilege the public gave it to use the streets of the Federal Capital, a pretty fair little price for what actually belongs to the people; and, most interesting of all, about \$2,000,000 increase in value after the old United States Electric Lighting Company had been converted into the Potomac Electric Light Company, with the same terms "transferring over night from one pocket to another," just like a man finding an increase in his wage when he has shifted it from one side of his trousers to another.

Claim at Great Falls. Then, there is another item of \$1,000,000 for what is called a water site at Great Falls, into which there has never been stuck a spade in the sixteen years since this site was bought. According to Syme, this water site was bought by the Great Falls Water Power Company at the time when the people were trying to get Congress to harness this great power for providing electric power and heat for the Government and private use, just merely forestalling any attempt the Government might make.

Of course, if the Government ever dared to want to use this power, it would probably meet with strenuous opposition for invading the rights of private ownership. The railway company bought the Great Falls company out, paying, it is said, \$425,000. This company, in turn, sold it to the Potomac Electric Light Company for \$1,000,000, although the title has not yet been perfected.

These claims are the sacred rights of property, and an awful crimp would be put in the Constitution and vested rights if not allowed.

Fighting for Three Years. And Conrad H. Syme has been fighting all these claims for about three years, really reveling in the fact he is having at the expense of the best paid lawyers of the District, sanguine that he is going to win his fight. He admits that the company has a right to a fair return on every dollar that has been squarely and prudently invested in the property. On this investment he is willing that the owners shall receive 7 per cent, or \$770,000 a year, on a valuation of \$11,000,000. On a \$23,000,000 basis the dividends at 7 per cent, now generally recognized by the courts as fair, would amount to \$1,610,000.

Position Syme Takes. Syme takes the position that the contest is one between backward looking and forward looking; between greedy special privilege, seeking to fatten on rights secured from the public without cost, and an enlightened understanding of the duties of a public service corporation to the public, of which it is merely a servant.

Syme, having made a profound study of public utility and interstate commerce laws, believes that a spirit of justice breathes in every law fit to enforce, and that all true social, ethical and property relations are controlled by principles as unswerving as the laws of mathematics. When comprehended and applied they will solve every problem justly and honestly.

He hits hard, too, with a smile on his lips, but his punishment comes back with a solar plexus. He's got a big job on his hands now.

L.A. CAPITALIST MISSING. SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 14.—Capt. W. F. Dillon, wealthy capitalist and president of the Shreveport Railway Company, has been missing since Thursday. He is believed to have been drowned or frozen to death while hunting in Caddo Lake.

Business Hours,
8:30 A. M.
5:30 P. M.

All 1918 Calendars Now Half Price

Woodward & Lothrop

New York—WASHINGTON—Paris



Every Woman Should Lay In a Full Supply of Dainty Undermuslins

While She Has the Opportunity to Purchase Them at January Sale Prices



"Save a Quarter"

Then go to the nearest Post Office—or if you are in our store—to the Cashiers on the seventh floor, and BUY A U. S. THRIFT STAMP. Paste it onto a U. S. Thrift Card. When you've bought 16 U. S. Thrift Stamps, add 12 cents (during January) and receive a War Savings Stamp for which you will be paid \$3.00 on January 1, 1923. This is 4 per cent interest compounded quarterly. Let a company of savers back every company of soldiers.

Excellent Offerings in Stamped Goods

Hand-made French Gowns and Envelope Chemise, \$2.50 each. Made-up garments of fine nainsook, all ready to embroider—gowns, \$1.00 and \$1.25; Combinations, 75c and \$1.00; Corset Covers, 25c and 50c.

Stamped Luncheon Sets on White Art Cloth

36-inch Centerpiece \$1.25
22-inch Centerpiece 50c
12-inch Doily 15c
5-inch Doily 7c
7x10-inch Oval Doily 15c
10x14-inch Oval Doily 25c
14x20-inch Meat Doily 35c
22x34-inch Scarf \$1.25

Needlecraft Novelty Package Goods

The Sanitary Ice Box Set will be appreciated by all good housekeepers. It consists of parsley bag, 15c; radish bag, 25c; celery bag, 25c, and lettuce bag, 25c. They are stamped and tinted on white suiting and made up ready to embroider, including the cord.

This same line of goods includes a lap pad, 50c; sewing apron, \$1.00; sun bonnet doll, 75c; cuddle doll, \$1.00; darning apron, 50c, and button bag, 50c.

Stamped Bath Towels, some with colored borders, others with colored stripes of pink, blue and yellow, 50c to \$1.25.

Stamped Guest Towels on fine huck range in price from 60c to 85c.

A beautiful Bed Room Set of White Art Cloth, with colored applique in morning glory and rose designs of pink and blue, consists of bed spread, 72x90 inches, \$3.00, and handkerchief bag, 50c.

Art Needlework Department, second floor, Tenth street.

Pretty New Linens For the Table Appeal to Every Housewife

And nothing adds more to the appearance of a dining table than a dainty luncheon set.

Our display of hand-made Luncheon Sets is unusually attractive and the prices are most reasonable.

Pure Linen Lunch Sets—13 pieces scalloped edge, \$2.50 and \$3.00. Napkins to match, \$4.00.

Handsome Maderia Embroidered Lunch Set, 13 pieces, \$5.

Handmade Lunch Set of Cluny Lace, embroidered in center:

13 piece set, \$12.50

17 piece set, \$15.00

25 piece set, \$20.00

Genuine handmade Florentine Lace Lunch Set, 25 pieces, \$30.00. This is an exquisite set and would have to be seen to be appreciated.

Handmade Baby Irish Sets, in different patterns. The rose pattern is especially lovely. 13 piece set for \$6.50; 25 piece set, \$8.75. This is a wonderful value.

Second floor, 11th street.

New White Dress Goods, Novelty Suitings and Voiles

Serviceable Novelty Suitings, mostly white, some have a narrow stripe. The materials are gabardine, poplin, cheviot and Russian cord and are just the weight for the early spring dresses, suits and skirts. 1 yard wide, 50c to \$1.50 a yard.

Voiles are a big factor and the filmy white cotton stuffs are bewitchingly pretty. To relieve the sameness of weave the designs are totally different—plaids in tiny squares and large blocks, formed of satin striped; in some the squares are formed of drawn work. Some are corded and others are satin striped, with dots and embroidered designs intermingled. All are delightfully new. 36 and 40 inches wide, 40c to \$1.00 yard.

Second floor, 11th street.

All the Women's Suits Are Reduced And the Sooner You Make Your Choice, the Better Selection You Will Get

This is the sale for which women wait every year with great expectancy and regularity. We are not disappointing them, though the conditions of the market would warrant our holding them at the regular prices. However, this is contrary to our policy and we take pleasure in advising women that every suit now offered at these low prices is from our own stock.

Elegant Dress and Calling Suits, the practical serviceable Tailored Suits, Richly Fur-trimmed Suits, Fine and Smart Sports Suits, Belted and Semi-belted Suits. Each suit appropriately trimmed and each model adapted to the material and color in which it is shown.

CLEARANCE PRICES:

\$23.75, \$33.75, \$43.75, \$53.75, \$73.75, and \$133.75.

Third floor, G street.

ORIGINAL PRICES:

\$35.00, \$39.50, \$45.00, \$75.00, \$95.00, \$150.00, and \$195.00.

Pretty New Blouses at \$1.00

They are pretty white things of soft voile in plain, corded and striped effects in more styles than you would care to count.

There is a pretty style made of figured voile with roll collar and tie.

Another style is made of plain voile with flat collar and corded frill down the front edged with lace.

Still another style is of satin striped voile, with convertible collar, turn back cuffs and full from the shoulder. This is an unusual value for \$1.00.

Anyone needing waists at a moderate price would do well to buy a supply, for seldom are such good values offered at so low a price.

Third floor, G street.



Cold Gone! Head and Nose Clear

First dose of "Pape's Cold Compound" relieves all gripe misery.

Don't stay stuffed-up! Quit blowing and snuffling! A dose of "Pape's Cold Compound" taken every two hours until three doses are taken relieves all gripe misery and break up a severe cold either in the head, chest, body or limbs. It promptly opens clogged-up nostrils and air passages; stops nasty discharge or nose running; relieves sick headache, dizziness, feverishness, sore throat, aching, soreness and stiffness.

"Pape's Cold Compound" is the quickest, surest relief known and costs only a few cents at drug stores. It acts without assistance, tastes nice, and causes no inconvenience. Don't accept a substitute.

Report Many Cases of Rheumatism Now

Says we must keep feet dry; avoid exposure and eat less meat.

Stay off the damp ground, avoid exposure, keep feet dry, eat less meat, drink lots of water and above all take a spoonful of salts occasionally to keep down uric acid. Rheumatism is caused by poisonous toxin, called uric acid, which is generated in the bowels and absorbed into the blood. It is the function of the kidneys to filter this acid from the blood and cast it out in the urine. The kidneys are also a means of freeing the blood of this impurity. In damp and chilly, cold weather the skin pores are closed, thus forcing the kidneys to do double work, they become weak and sluggish and fail to eliminate this uric acid, which keeps accumulating and circulating through the system, eventually settling in the joints and muscles, causing stiffness, soreness and pain called rheumatism. At the first twinge of rheumatism get from any pharmacy about four ounces of Epsom salts, put a tablespoonful in a glass of water and drink before breakfast each morning for a week. This is said to eliminate uric acid by stimulating the kidneys to normal action, thus ridding the blood of these impurities. Epsom salts is inexpensive, harmless and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice combined with salts by thousands of folks who are subject to rheumatism. Epsom salts have a pleasant effervescent lithium-water drink which overcomes uric acid and is beneficial to your kidneys as well.



Quality Dental Work

sought for by everyone who knows the secret of well kept teeth—yet "quality," complemented by Painless Treatment, Guaranteed Workmanship, and Easy Terms of Payment is essentially the service I render my patients.

Let me examine YOUR teeth.

Set of Teeth That Fit
A very good set for only
A better set, made of best materials.
The best set to be had anywhere at
\$5
\$10
\$15

Gold Crowns and Bridge-work
Made of the very highest quality of gold.
\$22.00 per tooth.
Our price is, per tooth..... \$5

Fillings That Stay In.
Gold, Alloy, Enamel, \$1.
Silver, Amalgam, Cement, 50c.

DR. WHITE, 407 7th ST.

The Most Sanitary Dental Office in Town
Opposite Woolworth's 5 and 10c store. Hours: Daily, 8:30 a. m. to 8 p. m.
Sundays 10 to 2. Phone Main 18.
Dr. J. K. Freiot, Prop.

Our January Sale of Children's Dainty Undermuslins Begins Tomorrow

Just as good news and just as important to every mother as is the securing of Brand-New Undermuslins for herself. Many women have always availed themselves of this occasion to lay in great stores of these moderately-priced, good-wearing Undermuslins to last the children for months to come. This year when economy is uppermost in everyone's mind this January sale will interest many thousands more this winter than it ever has before.

The trimmings are simple and good; fine small embroideries, hemstitchings and casings; all the emphasis has been put on giving the best quality and workmanship possible for the price.

Muslin Drawers at 35c

Of splendid quality muslin, trimmed with embroidery ruffle, fine tucks or hemstitching. Sizes 2 to 12 years.

Muslin Drawers at 50c

With embroidery or lace ruffle, trimmed with fine tucks. Sizes 2 to 16 years.

Muslin Skirts at 50c

Made on band and trimmed with hemstitched tucks, and embroidery ruffle. Sizes 6 to 14 years.

Muslin Gowns at 68c

Very pretty styles with round low neck, and kimono sleeves; trimmed with beading and ribbon. Sizes 6 to 16 years.

Muslin Gowns at 95c

Various styles in V, square and high neck; trimmed with yoke of fine tucks, ruffle of embroidery on neck and sleeves. Sizes 6 to 16 years.

On sale in the Infants' Shop, Fourth floor, G street.

Fourth floor, G street.